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(71) Applicant: Applied Materials, Inc.
Santa Clara, California 95054 (US)

(72) Inventors:

- Arackaparambil, John
San Carlos, CA 94010 (US)
- Chi, Tom
San Jose, CA 95127 (US)
- Chow, Billy
Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US)
- D'Souza, Patrick M.
Apex, NC 27502-6657 (US)
- Hawkins, Parris
Pleasanton, CA 94566 (US)
- Huang, Charles
Union City, CA 94587 (US)

- Jensen, Jett
Campbell, CA 95008 (US)
- Krishnamurthy, Badri N.
Mountain View, CA 94043 (US)
- Kulkarni, Pradeep M.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (US)
- Kulkarni, Prakash M.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (US)
- Lin, Wen Fong
San Jose, CA 95129 (US)
- Mohan, Shantha
Palo Alto, CA 94306 (US)
- Nandy, Bishnu
Union City, CA 94587 (US)
- Yuan, Huey-Shin
Cupertino, CA 95014 (US)

(74) Representative:

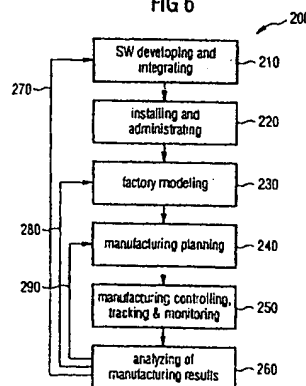
Kirschner, Klaus Dieter, Dipl.-Phys.
Schneiders & Behrendt
Rechtsanwälte - Patentanwälte
Sollner Strasse 38
81479 München (DE)

(54) Computer integrated manufacturing techniques

(57) The present invention provides a novel distributed factory system framework including a novel factory automation lifecycle (200) having lifecycle activities for SW developing and integrating (210), installing and administering (220), factory modeling (230), manufacturing planning (240), manufacturing controlling, monitoring and tracking (250) and analyzing of manufacturing results (260). The factory lifecycle comprises framework components. The distributed factory system framework also includes application components and SW building blocks. The framework components are adapted for managing the application components, while the application components are utilized to provide instructions for managing a process such as a wafer fab. The building blocks are adapted for forming or modifying framework and application components. The distributed factory system framework provides computer implemented

methods for integrating processing systems and facilitates process and equipment changes.

FIG 6



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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			G05B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 27 September 2001	Examiner Helot, H
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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